

SECRET

9 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: SB/RR

SUBJECT : The Uniate Church in the UkSSR

1. On 23 February 1967, Victor CHERNYAVSKY, Second Secretary to the Permanent Ukrainian Delegation to the United Nations, asked an AERODYNAMIC source with whom he had initiated contact what reaction the source thought there might be among Ukrainian emigres if steps were taken to Ukrainianize the Russian Orthodox Church in the Ukraine and to establish a Ukrainian Metropolitan in Kiev. CHERNYAVSKY said the chances for this happening were better than were the prospects for reestablishing the Uniate Church in the Ukraine.

2. Although CHERNYAVSKY assured the source the above was his own private opinion and merely an idea which had occurred to him, it is more likely he was trying to get a reading on the reaction to such a proposal for official purposes. The liquidation of the Uniate Church in the Ukraine has been a topic which Soviet officials have found painful in their discussions with emigre Ukrainians. Contacts in the past year have revealed that there have been discussions among Soviet officials in Kiev concerning some method of appeasing emigre Ukrainians on the church question other than the actual reestablishing of the church. As one Soviet source put it, there is no room in the Soviet Union for the coexistence of two such well-organized conflicting forces as the Party and the Uniate Church.

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Acting Chief, SB/S/CA

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*Based on
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Memo of contact
with Chernyavsky*

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